

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05
TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 AGRE-00 EB-07 /136 W
-----120737Z 130828 /11

R 100133Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3559
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABARONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSULATE CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS USUN 1471

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:PFOR, US, UN, LT
SUBJECT: SYG WALDHEIM'S LETTER ON ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

REF: USUN 1469

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO US PERM REP FROM SYG
WALDHEIM CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO (ITEM TO BE
DISCUSSED IN SECURITY COUNCIL BEGINNING MAY 24):
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QUOTE

SIR,
I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO MY NOTE SO 570 OF 5
JANUARY 1977 IN WHICH I TRANSMITTED A COPY OF SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 402 (1976) OF 22 DECEMBER 1976 CONCERNING

ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE RESOLUTION APPEALED TO ALL STATES TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATELY FINANCIAL , TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO, SO THAT IT COULD "CARRY OUT ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND ENHANCE ITS CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT FULLY THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON APARTHEID AND BANTUSTANS". I WAS REQUESTED TO ORGANIZE, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS, ALL FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE LESOTHO TO OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM THE CLOSURE OF THE BORDER POSTS.

IN MY NOTE UNDER REFERENCE I INFORMED YOU OF MY INTENTION TO SEND A MISSION TO LESOTHO WITH A VIEW TO FURNISHING MEMBER STATES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT LESOTHO'S PROBLEMS AND NEEDS AND TO FACILITATE THE ORGANIZATION OF ASSISTANCE. THE MISSION HAS COMPLETED ITS STUDY OF THE SITUATION AND ITS REPORT IS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT S/12315, COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED.

THE MISSION EXAMINED IN DETAIL LESOTHO'S PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT THE FRAGILE NATURE OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL SOURCES FOR MANY VITAL GOODS AND SERVICES. IT IS THIS EXTERNAL ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE AS MUCH AS ITS GEOPOLITICAL SITUATION WHICH MAKES LESOTHO VULNERABLE TO PRESSURES.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS IMPORTANT FOR LESOTHO TO
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RECEIVE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THE ASSISTANCE WHICH IT NEEDS URGENTLY FOR ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOR ENHANCING ITS CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTIONS ON APARTHEID AND BANTUSTANS. THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LESOTHO.

THE MISSION HAS GROUPED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER TWO HEADINGS - THE EMERGENCY PROGRAMME AND THE ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

(A) THE \$66 MILLION EMERGENCY PROGRAMME COVERS THE PROJECTS REQUIRED FOR LESOTHO TO BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE EMERGENCY SITUATION CREATED BY THE CLOSURE OF BORDER POSTS AND BY OTHER MEASURES BY SOUTH AFRICA SUCH AS THE WITHDRAWAL OF GAIN SUBSIDIES. THE EMERGENCY PROGRAMME ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL ARISE FROM AN EXPECTED POOR MAIZE HARVEST THIS YEAR.

(B THE \$47 MILLION ACCERLATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COMPRISES
SELECTED PROJECTS, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH SHOULD BE FACI-
LITATED BECAUSE THEY COULD RELATIVELY QUICKLY COUNTRIBUTE TO
STRENGTHENING LESOTH'S ECONOMY AND THEREBY DIMINISH ITS
DEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR CO-
ORDINATED ACTION, BOTH IN SEEK ING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
AND IN USING THE ASSISTANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED
PROGRAMMES. FOR THIS PURPOSE I HAVE DESIGNATED
MR. ABDULRAHIM ABBY FARAH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-
GENERAL FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS, TO BE RESPONSIBLE AT
HEADQUARTERS FOR CO-ORDINATING ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM. HHS OFFICE, WHICH WILL WORK IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO, WILL MAINTAIN UP-TO-DATE
RECORDS OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF LESOTHO AND OF THE OFFERS
OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED OR PLEDGED.

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FURTHERMORE, IT WILL ACT AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR INFORMATION
ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO HAS INDICATED TO ME THATIT
WOULD WELCOME BOTH MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL
ASSISTANCE. A SPECIAL ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT HEAD-
QUARTERS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THOSE DONORS WHO MAY WISH TO
CHANNEL THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LESOTHO THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO FINANCE THE VARIOUS PRO-
JECTS RECOMMEDNED IN THE REPORT OF THE MISSION ARE CLEARLY
BEYOND THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO LESOTHO. THEY CAN ONLY BE
PROVIDED THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I TRUST THAT YOUR
GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE APPEAL OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL
AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

KURT WALDHEIM
SECRETARY-GENERAL UNQUOTE

LEONARD

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